## LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims in the present application.

1.-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented)  A method comprising:

in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area:

performing the operation upon a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location is identified in at least one location description of a sieve associated with the operation,

wherein the sieve comprises the at least one location description and a property,

wherein the property comprises information identifying the operation, and

wherein the at least one location description identifies all storage locations within the storage area upon which the operation can be performed.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 27 wherein the at least one location description is specified by an application program.

30. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 27 wherein the operation is replication.

31. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 27 further comprising:

obtaining a set of entities, wherein

the first set of locations comprises a plurality of subsets of locations, and

an entity in the set of entities has permission to perform the operation on respective data in at least one of the plurality of subsets of locations.

32. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 27 wherein

the at least one location description and the corresponding property are designated by a requester.

33. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 32 further comprising:

obtaining a designation of the operation to be performed.

34. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 32 wherein

the requester manages data in the storage area.

35. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 32 wherein

the requester performs a management function of a set of management functions for the storage area.

36. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 32 wherein

the requester identifies a respective physical location in the storage area corresponding to each location described in the at least one location description.

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37. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 32 wherein

each location described in the at least one location description is specified by

    a beginning location and

    a number of contiguous locations starting at the beginning location.


38. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 32 wherein

the at least one location description is designated by a set of indicators, wherein

    the set of indicators comprises an indicator for each respective location of the
        plurality of locations, and

    each indicator of the set of indicators indicates whether the respective location for
        the indicator is described in the at least one location description.


39. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 32 further comprising:

obtaining a second set of locations; and

performing a second operation on the second set of locations after the operation is
performed on the given location.


40. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 39 wherein

the at least one location description and the corresponding property are designated by the
requester; and

the operation and the second operation are designated by the requester.


41. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 32 wherein

each type of operation in the sieve is performed on the given location if the sieve is
specified.


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42. (Currently Amended)  A system comprising:

means for storing a sieve associated with an operation; and

means for performing the following in response to a request to perform [[an]] the
operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage
area, wherein the means for performing the following comprise:

performing means for performing the operation upon a given location in the first
set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the
given location is identified in at least one location description of [[a]] the
sieve associated with the operation,

wherein the sieve comprises the at least one location description and a
property,

wherein the property comprises information identifying the operation, and

wherein the at least one location description identifies all storage locations
within the storage area upon which the operation can be
performed.


43. (Canceled)


44. (Previously Presented)  The system of claim 42 wherein
the at least one location description and the corresponding property are designated by a
requester.


45. (Currently Amended)  The system of claim 42 further comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining a designation of the operation to be performed.


46. (Previously Presented)  A system comprising:

a module configured to perform the following in response to a request to perform
an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a

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storage area, wherein the module configured to perform the following comprises:

a performing module configured to perform the operation upon a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location is identified in at least one location description of a sieve,

wherein the sieve comprises the at least one location description and a property,

wherein the property comprises information identifying the operation, and

wherein the at least one location description identifies all storage locations within the storage area upon which the operation can be performed.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented)  The system of claim 46 wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property are designated by a requester.

49. (Previously Presented)  The system of claim 46 further comprising:

an obtaining module to obtain a designation of the operation to be performed.

50. (Previously Presented)  A computer-readable medium comprising:

instructions configured to perform the following in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein the instructions configured to perform the following comprise:

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performing instructions configured to perform the operation upon a given location

in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location is identified in at least one location description of a sieve associated with the operation,

wherein the sieve comprises the at least one location description and a property,

wherein the property comprises information identifying the operation, and

wherein the at least one location description identifies all storage locations within the storage area upon which the operation can be performed.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously Presented)  The computer-readable medium of claim 50 wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property are designated by a requester.

53. (Previously Presented)  The computer-readable medium of claim 50 further comprising:

obtaining instructions to obtain a designation of the operation to be performed.

54. (Previously Presented)  A computer system comprising:

a processor; and

the computer-readable medium of claim 50, wherein

the computer-readable medium is coupled to the processor.

55-61. (Canceled)

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